

Government Orders

New Democratic Party. I would be more than happy to concur with your suggestion. I would agree with that since I will have an opportunity to speak on third reading today as I am sure other members will also. Depending on the decision of the Chair the debate will not be concluded today. It could be held over until Monday. That is a very reasonable suggestion.

Madam Deputy Speaker: I thank the hon. member. What I suggest is that the report be concurred in. We will start third reading and if and when there are no more members asking for the floor on third reading we will allow the debate to be suspended to a later date without putting the question to the House.

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Madam Deputy Speaker: So the question was that Bill C-35 be concurred in at the report stage.

Is it the pleasure of the House to adopt the motion?

Some hon. members: Agreed.

Some hon. members: On division.

Motion agreed to.

Madam Deputy Speaker: When shall the bill be read the third time? Now?

An hon. member: Now.

Hon. Gerald S. Merrithew (for Minister of Justice) moved that the bill be read a third time and passed.

Mr. Dave Worthy (Parliamentary Secretary to Minister of Public Works): Madam Speaker, as all the members in this House have requested unanimously that I be brief I will promise the Chair and the House that I will do so.

Bill C-35 deals with the proposals introduced in 1990 under the Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act. These proposals were originally tabled in this House and in the other place February 15, 1990. Since then the proposals were studied by the Standing Committee on Justice and the Solicitor General as well as by a committee in the other place.

The amendments that we see here to this bill are made possible by the miscellaneous statute law amendment program which was introduced in 1975. The program was established to permit minor technical amendments to federal statutes to be made without having to wait for more substantive amendments to be considered and prepared.

It is of interest that in the 16 years since 1975 we have used this process for six different sets of proposals.

The bill that is in front of us today contains the proposals that were unanimously approved of by both committees last year. Since the introduction of the current bill this year in the new session, Bill C-35, it has been studied and approved by the Standing Committee on Justice and the Solicitor General.

The standing committee was satisfied during its study that this bill contains only the proposals that were earlier considered by it and approved by it. As we heard in the procedural debate that preceded this third reading, the committee did pay particular attention to Part III of the bill because that part of the bill had not been included in the 1990 proposals and also because it deals with bills that have not been processed to date.

The committee members were satisfied that Part III of this act was consequential on proposals that it had already approved. It was included only because of the introduction of other bills since the committee's consideration of the 1990 proposals in order to deal with the possible conflicts between this bill and some of the other bills before this House.

Because of the fact that the standing committee has approved it, it does introduce many housekeeping changes that are important to the departments of government and how they operate and are important to people in this House. It is the normal operation under this section that the various parties of the House do co-operate in agreeing that these are all in order and properly constituted. I would recommend that the members of the House concur in third reading.

Mr. David Dingwall (Cape Breton—East Richmond): Madam Speaker, I want to say a number of things about the bill itself. Before doing that I just wish to put on the record that there has been a fair amount of co-operation on this particular bill. The hon. member really has not alluded to that but I think he has touched on it. I just want to clarify for the the record that there has been a fair amount of co-operation in committee and elsewhere with regard to facilitating this particular bill. The Minister of Justice who tabled the bill for first reading on October 4, 1991, talks about correcting certain errors and certain matters contained in various federal statutes.